

## COMMENTARY

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AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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## Team Charleston continues to impress

By Col. Rusty Findley  
437 AW commander

A big thanks to the Charleston AFB Top Three Association for a truly first class Senior NCO Induction ceremony July 27 to welcome in our new master sergeants. Our guest speaker for the evening was retired Chief Master Sgt. Sam Parish, the eighth chief master sergeant of the Air Force, who spoke about the qualities that make up a senior NCO. I know that the event carried special significance for the 63 master sergeant inductees, families, friends, co-workers and supervisors.

To plan an event of this caliber is no small feat, thanks to the following committee members for their hard work:

Master Sgt. Josephine Miller, Senior Master Sgt. Terrie Powell, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Freebury, Master Sgt. Larry Brooks, Master Sgt. John Kannegaard, Master Sgt. Peggy Miller, Master Sgt. Tony Helton, Master Sgt. Jeffrey Unger, Master Sgt. Davis Bechtol and Master Sgt. Geoffrey Oliver. It was a great event and everyone had a fun time.

At Monday's standup, it was my honor to present a number of awards. As many of you may know, the Palmetto Cup is awarded to the top three squadrons that improve their squadron on-time participation and accuracy in areas requiring improvement in eight different categories such as evaluations and awards. The award comes with some money taken from my Palmetto account to be used for a quality of life improvement project in the respective winning squadrons. Two squadrons, 437th Maintenance and Comptroller Squadrons, tied for first place

and walked away with \$6,250 each. In third place, we had the 437th Communications Squadron who took home \$2,500.

I was also pleased to present the Air Mobility Command Outstanding Staff Judge Advocate award to Capt. Heather Logan and the AMC Outstanding Civilian Program Specialist to Deirdre Abernathy, a court reporter in the same office. I was also honored to present signed certificates from the Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff for a commendation for outstanding civilian service to Frank Metzger, 437th Airlift Wing Plans, for having the "benchmark Y2K plan in the command."

If you hate to calculate your bowling score manually, then you are going to love the recent renovations to the Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center, which reopened Monday after being closed for renovations for six weeks. The renovated center includes new automated scoring machines, ball retrievers, lighting and furniture. The center offered free bowling to base patrons Monday as part of their grand reopening festivities. See the article on page 15.

The center could not have not have opened in time without the help of the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron members in the wood, electrical and plumbing shops. Thanks to 437th Services Squadron members Al Poirier, Robert Simmons (Starlifter Lanes manager) and the entire bowling center staff who worked so hard to get the place ready for the opening, as well as Laura Abell and Karl Brown for planning the festivities.

We have approximately 25 people from our sister wing at MacDill AFB, Fla., planning to visit us Tuesday through

Thursday to learn about Team Charleston. We look forward to hosting them. The visit will offer them a chance to become more familiar with our operations and how we do business on Charleston. It is a great opportunity for functional counterparts to crossfeed information and share ideas!

I was pleased to recognize the Diamond Sharp award winners on Tuesday for July and August. These airmen clearly show that they have the pride, professionalism and passion that makes this the premier airlift wing on the face of the planet. Winning top honors were:

Staff Sgt. Greg Fennessy, 437th Mission Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Bridget Bush, 437th OSS; Senior Airman Brian Johnson, 437th Supply Squadron; Senior Airman Jamey Elms, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron; Airman 1st Class John Parker, 437th MXS; Airman 1st Class Darla Looney, 437th Aerial Port Squadron; Airman 1st Class Richard Gebhardt, 437th Security Forces Squadron; and Airman 1st Class Erik Sonnenberg, 437th CS. Congratulations to all for their achievement!

The Civilian Personnel Office is hosting Mr. Kent Slakey, a senior evaluator from the Office of Personnel Management in Atlanta, Ga., for a visit Tuesday through Aug. 11. I thank Bill Williams and the rest of the CPO staff for taking good care of him during his first official visit to Charleston AFB.

The wing quarterly awards for the second quarter were presented Wednesday morning in the Charleston Club. Among those receiving top honors were:

Senior Company Grade Officer category: Capt. Hugh J.J. Verhoff, 437 MXS; Junior Company Grade Officer, 2nd Lt. Celeste Rodriguez, 437 CS; Senior Noncommissioned Officer, Senior Master Sgt.



Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

**Thr Starlifter Lanes Bowling Center unveiled its new, modern look this week. Col. Findley cuts the ribbon with Robert Simmons, bowling center manager.**

Michael J. Freebury, 437 OSS; Noncommissioned Officer, Tech. Sgt. Alfred L. Gregg, 437th Operations Group; Airman category, Senior Airman Robert M. Florio, 437 CPTS; Civilian category 1, Laura H. Abell, 437 SVS; and Michael Hairston, 437th Logistics Group.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and thanks to the supervisors who took the time to nominate their people. Thanks to the First Sergeant's Association for arranging the breakfast ceremony.

It is good to be home after all these TDYs. I look forward to seeing you at the base picnic today, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the base pool and surrounding areas on Davis Drive. The Family Fun Fest is one of the base's Year of the Family activities and it will have lots of activities and entertainment for adults and children, plus plenty of food and refreshments. During this time, you are also invited to watch the colonels defeat the chiefs (I predict) at the softball game at the base fields beginning at 2:30 p.m. The loser of this match will have the added responsibility of developing a suitable trophy, which I am sure will be memorable.

This week's been great and next week will be even better culminating with a fun Company Grade Officer's Council combat dining-in Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. in the C-17 Nosedock #2 (Bldg. 519). The event is open to all officers. I hope to see you there!

## Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at 963-5581 or send an e-mail to [action@charleston.af.mil](mailto:action@charleston.af.mil).

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.

